"Thought for the Week"

Welcome to Term 3

It was great to see everyone’s happy, smiling faces when the students arrived back at school after the holidays. They were all excited to share their holiday stories with each other and to find out what was in store for them this term.

It looks to be another busy term at school.

There will be Raw Art workshops for all the students next week. We will be visiting Hillview State School, on Friday, 29 July for NAIDOC day when the students from Prep to Year 6 from all the local small schools will be immersed in
Indigenous culture for a day. Our students attended this day last year and learnt a lot from the experience so we are keen to do it all again. Our 9-day school camp to Sydney, Canberra, the snow and the Blue Mountains for Year 4-6, is on 26 August to the 3 September. The Prep to Year 2’s will visit the Beaudesert Show on Friday, 2 September. The Year 3-6 students have the Dance Challenge on Sunday 11 September. There is also our Japanese Day in Beaudesert for Year 4-6. There is a public show holiday on Monday 8 August.

As you can see there’s a lot on this term for all our students in addition to our normal classroom work.

**Year 4-6 School Camp, 26 August-3 September**

Our triennial Year 4-6 school camp to Sydney, Canberra, the snow and the Blue Mountains is fast approaching. Next week we hope to send out more detailed information and invoices to all the families of the students attending this camp. Please find below a camp itinerary. The cost for students to attend is $500 and the adult cost is $720.

**Rathdowney State School Sydney Canberra Excursion 2016**

**Friday 26th August**

5:30pm Travel through the night with a dinner stop en route

**Saturday 27th August**

6:00am Breakfast McDonalds 65 Pacific Hwy, West Gosford
7:00am Arrive Gosford Olympic Pool for swim and showers
9:30am Taronga Zoo Cable car ride
4:30pm Arrive Elanora
6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Evening activities at Conference Centre

**Sunday 28th August**

7:00am Breakfast
8:15am Walk across Harbour Bridge from north to south
9:30am Captain Cook Harbour Cruise

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**Dates To Remember! – July/August 2016**

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Monday 29th August
7:00am Breakfast
7:30am Depart Elanora
8:30am Walk around The Rocks
10:00am Hyde Park Barracks Convict Life
11:30am Walk to Darling Harbour Packed lunch
12:30pm Chinese Gardens
2:00pm Depart for Canberra
5:30pm Arrive Greenleigh
6:30pm Dinner at accommodation

Tuesday 30th August
7:00pm Breakfast
9:00am Canberra National Exhibition Centre
12noon Packed lunch
1:00pm Parliament House PEO
2:00pm Parliament House Tour
3:00pm Hospitality
4:00pm AIS

Wednesday 31st August
7:00am Breakfast
7:30am Snow day Perisher Blue Clothes and toboggans from The Shed Jindabyne
7:00pm Dinner

Thursday 1st September
7:15am Breakfast
8:00am Electoral Education
10:00am Questacon
11:45am Packed lunch
12:45pm AWM REQ NO 87299
3:15pm Snack and depart Canberra
7:30pm Arrive Katoomba Christian Convention Centre
8:00pm Dinner

Friday 2nd September
7:00am Breakfast
8:00am Depart for Jenolan Caves
9:30am Lucas Cave Tour
11:30am Depart for Katoomba
1:00pm Packed lunch at Three Sisters Lookout
2:30pm Depart Three Sisters
4:30pm Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre Swim & Showers
6:30pm Depart Aquatic Centre
Dinner at McDonald along the way
**Saturday 3rd September**
5:30am Breakfast McDonalds Casino
8:00am Arrive Rathdowney

As you can see from the itinerary, the students will be visiting many well-known Australian landmarks. We visit Sydney and see the Opera House, cruise on Sydney Harbour, see where the first European settlers lived around the rocks. We visit Federal Parliament in Canberra and the Australian War Memorial. Having the opportunity to experience these places first-hand is invaluable for the students’ learning and personal development. Our school has always strongly believed in the experience provided to students by all our camps. Of all our school camps, this is the one that students remember for a lifetime. This camp, however, is only available to our students once while they are at primary school. For this reason, our school and the school’s P&C heavily subsidise this camp. Our triennial theatre restaurant shows do much to make this possible.

**School Walkathon, 24 June**

On the last day of term 2, our students from Prep to Year 6 were involved in a walk to Bigriggen. It was great to see the majority of our students were there and participated in the walk. We sincerely thank all the parents and other community members who helped out in various ways on the day. We couldn’t have done it without you.

The money raised from sponsorships will be donated to the Queensland Cancer Fund, our school’s designated charity, in the first instance.

The walkathon was a great way for us to end the term. After a bit of time for the students play in the lovely grounds at Bigriggen, and for the parents to chat, we all packed up and headed home for the school holidays.
Award Outing in the Holidays

In the first week of the holidays, nine of our students spent a day with the teachers as a reward for earning 5 citizenship certificates or earning the first round of 5 attendance certificates celebrating 50 weeks of perfect school attendance over the past 18 months. The school rewarded the students with lunch at Sizzler and a trip to the movies, all at no expense to the students.

We saw the movie, “The BFG”, a new version of Roald Dahl’s famous children’s story. Then we had lunch at Sizzler where we ran into one of our former teachers, Mrs Watterson, who was accompanied by a group of young girls. We were very excited to see and talk to Maddison Shearn, one of our past students, who was there with them.

After lunch we spent an hour or two checking out the shops before heading for home. We would sincerely like to thank, Mrs Reilly for helping out with transport and with supervising the students, who all behaved beautifully and were a delight to take out for the day.

Theatre Restaurant – 29, 30, 31 July and 5, 6 August

Our P&C Theatre Restaurant performances are to be held on the last weekend in July and the first weekend in August. Please keep your eyes out for advertising locally about these shows. Bookings for some nights are filling fast. If you have not yet attended a Rathdowney Theatre Restaurant, make sure you bring some friends along and come and see this year’s show, “The Pirate Prince”.

The show is a mix of ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ and “Pirates of Penzance” set on a desert
island with calypso music and an Abba song thrown in for good measure. You might see a few aging rock stars strut their stuff on stage, too! A Rathdowney Theatre Restaurant night is always a fun night and people always seem to look forward to seeing their friends and neighbours perform on stage in hilarious roles. Because of some adult humour in the show, it is only recommended for adults.

To top it all off, the P&C’s catering is legendary for its deliciousness!!

You can even get to see the show for free if you volunteer to help the P&C serve meals, sell raffle tickets, work on the door, or work on the bar for the night!

With such a small number of parents presently in our school, it is greatly appreciated if you can help out with this fund-raiser to ‘lighten the load’ on all parents a little.

Please phone Kaylene Wright on PH 5544 1319 for bookings or offers to volunteer. Please remember that the money raised directly benefits your children.

School Opinion Survey

Just before the school holidays we received this year’s school opinion survey forms. All of our parents are asked to complete the survey online this year. Your opinion about our school, help us to plan for our school’s future direction and helps us to improve our service to your children.

Each family will receive an envelope containing a letter and the information you will need to access the online survey. You are able to complete the survey from your home computers. If you don’t have access at home, you can use the school’s library computers by booking a time through the school’s office. The online survey will be available until 29 July and should only take 10 minutes to complete. We would love for every one of our parents to complete the survey.

P-2 News.

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely holiday! After the 2 week break, the Prep-2 students have gotten straight back into the routine of things.

In English this term we are going to read, explore and create informative texts. The informative text that we create will at the end of this term be a project for the Beaudesert Show. We are continuing on with our spelling. Please ensure that your child completes their daily spelling for homework.

Some of the Prep students have also started spelling. Guided reading lessons will start next week.

In Maths this week the Preps have been working on telling the time (o’clock) and collecting basic data. The Year 1’s have been exploring measurement as well as number patterns and the Year 2’s have been working with multiplication and chance and data.

In Geography the students have been looking at different arrangements of places that best suit the intended use of spaces.

In History the Preps and Year 1’s are exploring families and family trees. The Year 2’s are looking at fossils and the animals that used to inhabit the earth.

CAN YOU PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD READS EVERY NIGHT, AS I HAVE NOTICED THAT SOME CHILDREN ARE CONTINUALLY NOT DOING THEIR NIGHTLY HOME READING. YOUR CHILD WILL END UP FALLING BEHIND IF THEY ARE NOT PRACTICING THEIR READING.

More from us next week.

Kasey, Kay, Colleen